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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	China	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Construction, Education, Agriculture, and Conscription in the Canton Area	DATE DISTR.	28 July 1955
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

Construction

1. In February 1955, construction of the elementary school of the Overseas Chinese New Village was under way. The Overseas Chinese New Village, located on the outskirts of Canton, is to be a private institution with public support. Construction is being financed partly through funds contributed by returned overseas Chinese of Canton. 25X1

Education

2. The curriculum of the Chao Ch'ing Middle School (5128/1987/0022/1331), located in Kaoyao (N 23-03, E 112-26), in addition to the basic courses, included the following: social knowledge foundation, Darwinism foundation, knowledge of economic reconstruction, and political knowledge. 25X1

Agriculture

3. The 1954 crop in Hoch'engchen (N 31-20, E 118-56), was completely destroyed by a series of droughts, insect disasters, and typhoons. In Chungshan (N 22-32, E 113-22), Kwangtung, the 1954 harvest was so bad that in one case after the reduction for taxes had been made, the remainder of the crop was insufficient to feed a family of six beyond February. HK\$200 would be needed to solve this food problem.
4. There was a strict rationing of rice on the mainland. Unproductive families of overseas Chinese abroad were allotted 12 to 13 catties of coarse rice per month: 25X1

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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

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farmers could have 17 to 18 catties. Peanut oil and other daily-use commodities were rationed to each individual.

5. Ten percent of the crop automatically went to the government as public duty. The further collection of surplus crops by the government was based on a percentage of the total crop, regardless of family consumption.
6. Every family had to lend JMP300,000 to the Farmers Cooperative; however, the return date of the loan was not known. A construction and fertilizer fee was to be charged at the rate of JMP70,000 per mou. All products of the Cooperative had to go to the government.

Conscription

7. An 18-year-old boy from Chiangmen (N 22-36, E 113-06) was called by the government in 1952 to plant trees in Hainan. He spent two years there, and because of his strength he was able to maintain his good health. He worked hard and was found so praiseworthy by the fellow comrades that they allowed him to join the youth corps of the Communist Party. A bright future was forecast for this young man.

General

8. A great change had taken place in one village in the Canton area. Regardless of a person's business, if he was delinquent in paying his taxes, he would be subjected to "struggle." Study meetings were conducted every evening for the people. At the meeting of the district government, a person had to present himself "to be scorned." This "brainwashing" was employed both in the village and the city. It was reported that all investments of the people would become the property of the nation in the future. The people in commerce and industry were greatly concerned by these matters and found the situation hard to bear.
9. LIANG Shih-nai (2733/0099/1698) was a member of the Overseas Chinese Affairs Committee, according to a letter from Canton dated 26 December 1954.

25X1

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